

**Exhibit A**

Docket No: 110,00810101

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

We, Olav K. Lyngberg, Michael C. Flickinger, L. Edward Scriven II, and Ron Anderson, declare that: (1) our respective citizenships and residence/mailing addresses are indicated below; (2) we have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification identified below, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to herein; (3) we believe that we are the original, first, and joint inventors of the subject matter in

**COMPOSITE DEVICES INCORPORATING BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL AND METHODS**

Filing Date: 29 September 2000

Serial No.: 09/647,475

described and claimed therein and for which a patent is sought; and (4) we hereby acknowledge our duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to us to be material to the patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

We hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below, or §365(a) of any PCT international application which designates at least one country other than the United States of America listed below, and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on the basis of which priority is claimed:

a. ☒ no such applications have been filed.b. ☐ such applications have been filed as follows:

FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, CLAIMING PRIORITY UNDER 35 USC §119(a)-(d), §365(a), and/or §365(b)			
COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)

ALL FOREIGN APPLICATIONS, IF ANY, FILED BEFORE THE PRIORITY APPLICATION(S)			
COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)

\* Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 is reproduced on the attached page.

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Int'l Filing Date: 17 September 1999

**Title: COMPOSITE DEVICES INCORPORATING BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL AND METHODS**

Page 2 of 4

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 b. ☒ such applications have been filed as follows:

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APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)
60/100,914	17 September 1998

We hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States applications or §365(c) of any PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America, listed below.

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PCT/US99/21581	17 September 1999	Completed

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The undersigned declare further that all statements made herein of their own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that those statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

We hereby appoint Ann M. Muehling (Reg. No. 33,977), Kevin W. Raasch (Reg. No. 35,651), Mark J. Gebhardt (Reg. No. 35,518), Victoria A. Sandberg (Reg. No. 41,287), David L. Provence (Reg. No. 43,022), Matthew W. Adams (Reg. No. 43,459), Loren Arlin (Reg. No. 37,763), Brian J. Walsh (Reg. No. 45,543), and Kathleen L. Franklin (Reg. No. 47,574) our attorneys with full powers (including the powers of appointment, substitution, and revocation) to prosecute this application and any division, continuation, continuation-in-part, reexamination or review thereof, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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Page 3 of 4

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**Title: COMPOSITE DEVICES INCORPORATING BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL AND METHODS**

Please direct all correspondence in this case to:

Attention: Ann M. Mueiting  
Mueiting, Raasch & Gebhardt, P.A.  
P.O. Box 581415  
Minneapolis, MN 55458-1415  
Telephone No. (612) 305-1217  
Customer Number 26813

Wherefore, we pray that Letters Patent be granted to us for the invention described and claimed in the specification identified above and we hereby subscribe our names to the foregoing specification, claims, and Declaration, on the date indicated below.

 7/01/01

Name:	Olaf K. Lyngberg	Date
Citizenship:	United States of America	
Residence:	6 Piedmont Drive, Princeton Junction, New Jersey 08550 USA	
Mailing Address:		
(If different than Residence)		

Name:	Michael C. Flickinger	Date
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Residence:	2226 Scudder Avenue, St. Anthony Park, Minnesota 55108 USA	
Mailing Address:		
(If different than Residence)		

Name:	L. Edward Scriven II	Date
Citizenship:	United States of America	
Residence:	2044 Cedar Lake Parkway, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416 USA	
Mailing Address:		
(If different than Residence)		

Name:	Ron Anderson	Date
Citizenship:	United States of America	
Residence:	13645 Garver Avenue, Apple Valley, Minnesota 55124 USA	
Mailing Address:		
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**§ 1.56 Duty to disclose information material to patentability.**

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

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- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a *prima facie* case of unpatentability of a claim; or
- (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
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(c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

- (1) Each inventor named in the application;
- (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
- (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.

(d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.

(e) In any continuation-in-part application, the duty under this section includes the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to the person to be material to patentability, as defined in paragraph (b) of this section, which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

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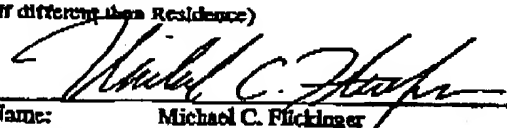
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Attention: Ann M. Mueing  
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P.O. Box 381415  
Minneapolis, MN 55458-1415  
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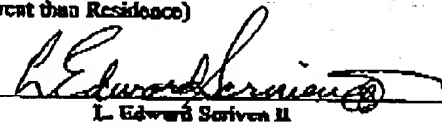
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Filing Date: 29 September 2000

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Mueeting, Raasch & Gebhardt, P.A.  
P.O. Box 581413  
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7/24/01

*Declaration and Power of Attorney**Serial No.: 09/647,875**Filing Date: 29 September 2000**Int'l Filing Date: 17 September 1999**Title: COMPOSITE DEVICES INCORPORATING BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL AND METHODS*

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